# **Painted Single Page Books** with CBTV Live

**Chapter 1 - Chapter 1**
Single Sheet Books
(upbeat pop music) - Hey, everybody. Welcome to Creativebug. We're coming at you live like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays. And I'm really excited because next week I have a special class that's launching. It's a zine making class. This is something that's near and dear to my heart. If you've never heard of a zine, or maybe you've seen it written and thought it was pronounced zyne, it's zine like magazine. And that class comes out next week. And a zine is a self-published little pamphlet or book. It has very scrappy traditions. But it could be very elevated as well. It's something that's meant to be reproduced, even a small limited edition. I'm gonna talk a little bit about one of our other Creativebuggers who's working on a zine project as we speak. But in honor of that zine class that's coming out next week, I wanted to show you how to make a single-page book. So in this case, because we're working on a larger format, I'm not intending for this to be photocopied and reproduced multiple times. This is a one of a kind artist book, and that allows us to play with a really large scale for this one. Remember, because we're live, you can write in and ask us questions. So feel free to do so as I'm working. If you've seen my painted gift wrap class, which Faith is gonna post a link for in just a minute, you may be familiar with this technique. I've got a really large piece of Strathmore drawing paper. And this is one of my favorite types of papers to work on. It's not intended for wet media like watercolor, but I think it takes ink and paint really nicely in small amounts. It does really well with image transfer, which is another thing that I love, and love to teach. It has a smooth surface. It's about 80 or 90 pounds. I could tell you actually how much it is. It is an 80 pound paper. So I just really like the weight. It folds easily, but when it's all folded up into a book, it has a really nice weight to it. And this is what it looks like if you're searching for it in the store. So Strathmore drawing paper. We're gonna start just really loosely. Now you could paint on this with some super dark colors, but remember, if you wanna make a book out of this and add some texture imagery after you've painted, you wanna keep everything really light. I've got an enamel palette here. You can use watercolor in a tube. You could use watercolor in a pan. You could use acrylic inks for this. And I've got a spray bottle, and some water in a jar over here as well. I'm gonna move some of my finished books out of the way, so I don't get them wet. And I'm gonna start just by spraying the surface. You don't have to start this way. But I wanted to show you what happens when you drop color into this. I've got an acrylic ink. So unlike watercolor, but you could get watercolor in a bottle like this, this will dry with an acrylic finish, which means you can't reactivate it. You can see anywhere where there's already water, that acrylic ink is starting to spread. But I can come back in here with a hardware store brush, I love these because they have really rough texture, and I can come in and manipulate this. Like I said, I'm gonna try to keep it light. I definitely wanna go all the way to the edge. I don't wanna fold this up and realize that I have blank pages, 'cause that would be sad. This is really dark in here. So maybe I'll just move some of that color out. And that's enough, that's it. I would let this dry, and then do the back. That way I could have double-sided pages. Just gonna put this on the floor to let it dry. Let me show you some other ones that I've done. I'm gonna show you how to put together a book. And in this case, I was thinking about a place that I visited this weekend that was full of really beautiful greens. So I just started with some really pale green colors. Now you could use watercolor for this. You can use the dry brush technique that I just showed you. There are other types of patterns that you can make if you check

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out my painted gift wrap class. Here's one where I let the water pool. I used a combination of acrylic inks. This is an indigo and a red. And you can see I've got some of that dry brush stroke, but I also have some of that really lovely soft color. I just did a blue and white on the back here. Just more fun kinda color combos. This one I wanted to keep really soft and earth tones. This is a watercolor. And the back is super, super pale. This is kind of just what was leftover on my brush with a little bit of water. But still allows for some nice texture, because once you fold this up, it's just gonna be a single brush stroke on a page. I really like these sort of of wood, round circles, this really soft color palette using kind of a rustic color and an indigo. And just a blush on the background. On the back side, rather. And that technique is just done, let me actually show you. I've got some red on my brush here, but you can see it. Just by spinning a hardware store brush like this. And I've got an in-depth tutorial on how to do that in the painted gift wrap class. So yeah, you can even go back on things you painted once and add some new patterns to them if you so choose. I'm gonna move these aside, and I'm gonna show you how to fold just one kind of single-page book from one of these large sheets. So I'll move this stuff aside. And the thing that I love about these single-page books is that you don't have to do any measuring, you're always just folding in half. And how many times you fold in half determines the size of your finished page and how many pages will be in your book. We're gonna start by folding this in half the hot dog way. I'm not being super precise, but I'm trying to line it up as best I can. And then we'll fold these free edges back to our center fold. And you can see that the paper's a little bit distorted from the water, from our paint, but that's fine. 'Cause once we kind of fold everything, it's gonna lie a little bit flatter. Alright, and that gives us this. It's got some nice mountain and valley folds happening. And now we're gonna fold it the hamburger way. So fold it in half from edge to edge. - [Woman] Courtney, we have two questions about materials. - Yeah. Remember, we're live, so you can write and ask questions. Sounds like we have a couple of questions. - [Woman] What size is the paper, and what paints are we using? - Good question. So I think this is an 18 by 24, yes. This is the largest sheet of paper that you can get in a pad. And I like buying this in a pad, 'cause then I can just paint a bunch of sheets at once. And then make a bunch of books in one evening. So this is an 18 by 24 Strathmore drawing paper. It's not really intended for wet media, but I actually really like it for some light painting like this. You can use it with ink or with watercolor. And then the paints that we're using. I've got a combination of just some tube watercolor I picked up at my local Jo-Ann. This happens to be Reeves. And then I've got some acrylic ink, which is FW. So the acrylic ink has a slightly different, more satiny finish when it dries. It cannot be reactivated by water. So if you do a second layer, it's not gonna pull up your first layer. Good questions. I folded my center fold, and now same thing, we're taking our free edges and folding them back to that center line. Just so you can see. I still have some little tabs of paper there. I'm not using a bone folder here. I'm just folding everything with my hands. When I cut this, I can go ahead and then kinda really bone down those folds if I want to. Right now I'm just kinda doing everything by hand, so it's a little more flexible. Now I have two options, I can cut on these horizontal. Sorry, if I'm holding this horizontally, I can cut on these folds. Or I can cut on these folds. If I cut on the long folds, then I'll get a horizontal book. If I cut on the short folds, I'll get a vertical book. And I'll show you what that looks like. Why don't we do this guy? So this is the part you really have to pay attention to. It may be hard to see on the camera. But you have intersections at all of your folds. You need to leave some of these connected, so that you have a single-page book. So that means I'm going to cut to my last intersection. Come from the opposite side and cut to my last intersection here. And come from the same side, and then cut to my last intersection. Let me show you so that it makes sense. Stopping at that intersection there. Before I rotate, I'm actually just

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gonna cut this last one. Okay, so coming from that intersection like that. I'm gonna rotate. And cut. So you should have something that looks like a w, or an m. Depending on how you rotated it for your cuts. Now this is all gonna fold up into a tidy little book. This is like the really fun magic part. Some of these folds, you'll have to reverse, which just means that if you folded them one way, when you go to this fold up part, it may feel a little stiff and you may have to refold it, and that's fine. But you can see you have this nice, tidy little book. And this is where I would kind of, you can knock up your pages and just realign things. And if you wanted to go back in with your bone folder and really crease down those folds, you could. I'm not too worried about it. I have to determine what is the front of my book. But you can see that you can flip this page by page just like a traditional book. Now it doesn't have a cover. You could come up with some clever way to make a cover. You could do a nice, little belly band on this. I wanted to show you a couple of my favorite ways to add some content. And these are gonna be techniques from my image transfer class, and something else called a found word poem, which I don't think we have a class for on Creativebug. So that's gonna be a new thing for you. So I'll just keep my book off to the side. And I've got some photos from this weekend. I said that I had painted this all green, because I was in a place that was very, very green this weekend. And these are photocopies. So they are color photocopies. They are not inkjet prints. You cannot use your home printer in most cases, because color laser copies are a little bit expensive. So you probably don't have this at home. If you're not sure what kind of printer you have, one way to tell is if the paper is warm when it comes out, that's the laser paper, a laser print rather, which is toner-based, and that is what you're looking for. The difference between an inkjet and a toner-based print is that inkjet squirts ink into the fibers of the paper and it gets absorbed, which means it's much harder to make a transfer. Toner is heat set, so it sits right on the surface, so it allows us to release it when making a transfer. And I go over this in length in my image transfer class and also in my book, Playing with Image Transfers. Now this does reverse the image. This process does reverse the image. I'm gonna try to find something. I think I'm gonna start with this photo. And I'm just gonna pick a page where I think I might want this. - [Woman] Courtney, we have a question about the background. Did you paint the background photos behind you? - The question is about the set, which is behind me. I try to change out the set pretty often. And this is a set we made for a class that Faith just filmed last week, which is gonna be coming up soon. And this is actually just a bunch of gift wrap that I bought. It's a variety of tones and colors, and I just placed it kind of in this collagey format, going from light to dark. Good question. So I've got my toner, or laser photocopy. I'm gonna put that face down onto the surface of my book, wherever I want this to be. The other materials you're gonna need for this are a bone folder, or some kind of burnishing tool, and then nail polish remover. This needs to be 100, or as close to 100% acetone as you can get. Do not get something with color. Do not get something with conditioners. It will not work. This is kind of a hard transfer to do, but it's one of my favorites, so we're just gonna give it a go. And if you have questions, now is a good time to ask. So we're gonna saturate. I couldn't find a cotton ball, so I'm just using this makeup pad. I'm saturating this with acetone. I'm trying to not allow this photocopy to move. I'm taking my burnishing tool, in this case, my bone folder, and I'm burnishing really well. I'm not doing this, that's not gonna work. You really need to muscle this transfer if you want it to work. The acetone transfers, because they're color-based, are much more finicky than black and white transfers. We're not done. We need to do this three times. So that was our first pass. Here is our second pass. Saturate with acetone. This is just from Target. Acetone nail polish remover. - [Woman] Courtney, branching in with another question. - [Courtney] Yup. - [Woman] Nikki would like to know where can she find your book for sale online? - Hi, Nikki. My book which is called

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Playing with Image Transfers, you can find at your local bookstore, or on Amazon. It's a really good resource because it covers all of my favorite transferring techniques. It also has, I think, 20 projects for you to play with image transfers on wood, metal, glass, paper, and fabric. Thank you for asking. Okay, last pass, 'cause I said three passes. And then we're gonna peek and see how we're doing. Now this is just one way to get content into your book. That way, you can make your book first. Of course, you could plan this out, and print it, and do all of that. But I like the flexibility of being able to add the content after I make the book. So that, if I do say so myself, is a pretty nice transfer. I look like I could've burnished more there. Let's just get that little corner. Sometimes the really dark paper, or really dark parts of a transfer don't wanna come out. That's totally fine. That's about as good a transfer as you're gonna get. I can come back in here with marker pens, or colored pencils, and fill that in. Or I can put some text there. Sometimes those happy accidents allow you to kind of create new processes, or think of new ways to integrate your content. So I'm totally happy with that. Let's add another transfer. I'll give you one more opportunity. You can see that the reds transfer really nicely with the acetone. Things like aqua blue do not transfer as well. So if you have an image of a bright blue sky, be considerate of that when you're doing your transfer because that color may not transfer in the process. - [Woman] We have a question from Marian. - [Courtney] Hi, Marian. - She wants to know will any home laser printer work? Could you use painter's tape to tape down the image when you are transfer? - The question is could you use a home laser printer? You can use a home laser printer. Home laser printers, or color laser printers, are pretty expensive, so you wanna make sure that you actually have a laser printer that is a toner-base copy, not an inkjet. So if you're 120% sure that that's what you have, yeah, you can go ahead and use it. I do have a black and white laser printer that works pretty well. The photocopy works the best. Just lays down the toner a little bit differently than a home machine. Second question of that was... - [Woman] Can you use painter's tape to tape down the image-- - Can you use painter's tape? - [Woman] When you are transferring? - Yeah. People ask me this every time I teach this class. I never tape down my image, just out of habit, but you absolutely could. You wanna make sure that your tape is not covering part of the image that you wanna transfer, because the tape will prevent the acetone from saturating that part of the paper. Good questions, you guys. This is a pretty rare opportunity, because we don't often do image transfers live. But these are really great questions. Image transfer is not a hard process, but it can be a little tricky when you're first getting started until you're really familiar with the materials. So give it a try. First pass of acetone and first burnish. I actually really love some of these photos that have the red in them, because they contrast so well with the green on the paper. Okay, so that's first pass. We're gonna do our second pass. You can use gloves if you have painted nails, or you're worried about the acetone. And then we'll do our third pass before we peek. Third pass. Alright, let's see. Aw, there's Betty. That's Betty, the little pit bull. She's so cute. Alright. Those are looking pretty good. That is one way to add content to your single-page book. The other thing you can do is a found word poem. And the way that you do one of these, for me, I like these because sometimes I have a hard time with the writing part of a book. The imagery is the thing that comes naturally to me. It's the thing that comes first. So sometimes I need words to accompany. So what you can do is take a book that you were going to get rid of, maybe a book that you picked up at the thrift store, or something you've already cut up, and you're gonna use this as the foundation of a poem. So you want a pen, or pencil, something where you can either highlight or underline the words that pop out at you from this existing text. Or you can do something like take a really dark marker and scribble out the words that you don't like. I think I like to highlight the ones I do like. That might be harder for you to see, though. So let's go and take out the ones that we don't

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want. So I like golden symbol, I'm gonna leave that. I like the word simple, I'm gonna leave that. I like many. One among many, I like. Downward. Light of their eyes, I like. So I'm just crossing out the things I don't like. Beside the forest, I'm gonna keep. You don't need to think about this too much. I like slew the beast. The forest, again. Sun, we'll keep those. Pathways, we'll keep. Hunter, we'll keep. Returned, we'll keep. He lingered, we'll keep. So I'm just going through. Okay. So I can read this like a poem. Or I can just cut out little bits that I like and glue them into my book. So golden symbol. Maybe I'll keep that. - [Woman] We have another question about the transfer. - [Courtney] Yep. - [Woman] Brianne wants to know-- - [Courtney] Hi, Brianne. - [Woman] What is the best, easiest material to transfer on when you're a complete beginner? - The question is what can you transfer on when you're a new beginner and you're just starting a transfer. The color transfers are a little bit harder than the black and white transfers. I'm not showing you the black and white transfer today. I don't have the materials for it. But it's in my book, and it's in my image transfer class on Creativebug. That is the easiest transfer to start with if you're gonna do a solvent transfer. And you can transfer onto a smooth, but not slick, paper. So that Strathmore drawing paper, you can get that in a much smaller size for a sketchbook, and it's a really great surface for transferring both black and white, and color images. So try drawing paper, photocopy paper, sketchbook paper. Not watercolor paper, or anything that has too much texture. Let's do pathways. Good questions. I'm just cutting out words here from my found word poem. I like this phrase, letting in the sun. So this can be, read like, as conceptual, or as abstract as you like. You could fiddle with this and really kind of create a very cohesive poem if you want. You could just take little phrases and let the viewer kind of add their own take to it. (clicks tongue) I'm just cutting some out here. And then I can add these to my book as I see fit. I wanted to share some finished books with you. That way you don't have to watch me painstakingly cut out every single little word and glue it into the book, since I'm not exactly sure what I'm gonna do yet. That way you can see some ones I've done before. Here's another page that doesn't have any content yet, but this is the one where I cut on the opposite three legs and created a horizontal book instead of the vertical book that we did together. Right, so this has vertical pages. This has horizontal pages. Here are some painted paper books that don't have any content. They have really saturated painted pages. This is all one single sheet of paper that I then cut up and made into a slightly different book. Heres another one. You can see, I don't know if you can tell on camera, but some of this is pearlescent. So it's very shimmery. You can see it's a little bit of that watercolor feel and some dry brush technique like we talked about. Here's one where I did the found word poem. So this was several sheets of paper that had just black. This says winter. The word half. Will. And old. It's very abstract. I made this about 10 years ago. But I like just adding a few words and letting the viewer kind of bring to it what they will. But it's a fun way to kinda loosen up. Take a really large sheet of paper, you could make scribble marks on it. Faith was saying that she tried this once where she just wrote a single giant word, but in cutting up the page and creating a book out of it, all of those gestures become really abstract. But you've set an intention by writing that single word. You could write a poem or a phrase that really means something to you, and then you cut it up. It's a nice place to start that then kind of gives you forward motion for creating a book when you don't have a great plan. Back to the zine class that's coming out next week, and the 100 days project that we're all embarking on, I did wanna share some of Faith's one-page zines. She is doing 100 zines, a zine a day, for the 100 day project. Thanks for everyone who's sharing their 100 day project, because we've been really enjoying seeing what that looks like for you guys on Instagram. I really discouraged Faith from doing this. I was like, "This is so overwhelming. "I can't believe you're doing a zine a day." And guess what, she was nice enough not to listen to me. Well,

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smart enough not to listen to me. And also, I was her first subscriber. So I'm getting one of these zines every day. And these are just a few. They're all made from a single page. So this one is My Sister Sends Me Selfies. Faith is one of three girls. So this is just a single page that she did these kind of traced over her iPhone images that her sister sends her. And then this gets folded up and made into a single-page zine. So if you're curious about making more zines, then you can check out the zine class. It's gonna be releasing next week. You can check out my painted gift wrap if you're looking for more ideas for how to paint large pieces of paper. Hopefully, you enjoyed the live shoot. If you have any questions for Faith, she'll probably be on one of our next live shoots, and you can follow her on Instagram as well and check out her 100 days project. Thanks as always for joining us live. We love your questions, and your enthusiasm, and we'll see you next time. (upbeat pop music)

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